

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, August 15, 2003

7D OFFICERS ARE RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR HEROISM FOLLOWING FIERY TRAFFIC CRASH IN SOUTHEAST

On May 5, Seventh District Officer Daniel Traver was on the scene of a disturbance at the intersection of Naylor Road and Southern Avenue, SE, when he observed a vehicle on the wrong side of the street speeding toward fellow officers who were assisting members of the DC Fire/EMS Department. Officer Traver yelled, alerting the other personnel to the impending collision. The driver of the vehicle failed to stop, crashed into the rear of a police vehicle and ambulance, which in turn hit a group of officers before bursting into flames. Seeing that Officer Traver was seriously injured (he incurred two broken legs) and was unable to move from the crash site, Officers Robert Rodney and Daniel Tyler (who was also injured) rushed to scene, pulled Officer Traver away and began to administer first aid. Although Officer Traver was seriously injured, he still had the presence of mind to broadcast his location, which expedited the arrival of backup assistance. Officer Rodney then turned his attention to the driver who caused the crash. He attempted to remove her from her damaged vehicle, but the driver's door could not be opened and the driver was too dazed to open the window on her own. So Officer Rodney broke the window – injuring his left hand in the process – and pulled her from the vehicle. Despite their injuries, Officers Rodney and Tyler began to secure the scene, with Officer Rodney directing traffic until additional officers arrived to relieve him. For their selfless actions and bravery, Officers Rodney, Tyler and Traver were recently honored during the monthly “CHAMPS” awards ceremony.

① Read more about these officers, and all 24 of this month's awardees, by visiting:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/heroes/champs/2003/08.shtml>

① CHAMPS (Capital Hotels Award Metropolitan Police Service) is a monthly awards luncheon sponsored by the Hotel Association of Washington, DC. This month's ceremony was held at the Washington Marriott.

AFTER STEPPED-UP TRAINING, MOST MERCHANTS ARE FOUND TO BE SELLING ALCOHOL RESPONSIBLY

Using a three-year, \$1 million from the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, DC's Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA), the National Capital Coalition to Prevent Underage Drinking (NCCPUD) and the MPDC have joined forces to combat underage drinking by focusing on merchants who are selling to minors. In June 2003, ABRA sponsored training classes attended by nearly 500 representatives from various ABC-licensed establishments. On July 3, ABRA and MPDC began to conduct joint compliance checks with trained youth from NCCPUD serving as underage buyers. Real DC driver's licenses and learner's permits are used by the underage individuals who attempt to buy alcohol. The compliance checks found that some sellers either are not asking for identification from the underage buyers or are not correctly reading the identification once it is presented. In July, compliance checks were conducted at more than 120 establishments, with 41 of them selling to minors. These establishments face a possible fine of \$1,000 for the first violation and suspension of their ABC license for five consecutive days. ABRA and MPDC are hopeful that this percentage will decrease as more compliance checks are conducted in the upcoming weeks.

① For more details, including the list of establishments that sold alcohol to underage buyers, go to:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2255>

MAYOR ANNOUNCES NEW DIRECTOR OF UNIFIED COMMUNICATIONS IN DC

Mayor Williams this week introduced the District's new director of unified communications, who is responsible for managing emergency and non-emergency communications systems in the city. Howard Baker will oversee DC's current Public Safety Communications Center, located on McMillan Drive, NW. In addition, he will manage the transition from the PSCC to the District's new Unified Communications Center, which will consolidate all emergency and non-emergency communications in a single facility scheduled to open in late 2004 on the St. Elizabeth's Hospital complex in Southeast. Currently, all calls to 9-1-1 and 3-1-1 are answered in the PSCC by call-takers employed by the MPDC. If the call involves a fire or medical emergency, it is forwarded to separate Fire/EMS call-takers. Under the UCC, there will be "unified" call-takers who will be able to handle police, fire and medical emergencies. Baker comes to the District with extensive experience in emergency communications from previous stints in New York City and Philadelphia. Mr. Baker reports to the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice, Margret Nedelkoff Kellems.

MPDC PARTICIPATES IN "DAY OF REMEMBRANCE" FOR TWO TRANSGENDER TEENS MURDERED A YEAR AGO

Mayor Williams and Chief Ramsey joined family members and friends of two transgender teenagers murdered one year ago at 50th and C Streets, SE, for a special "day of remembrance" this past week. On August 12, 2002, 18-year-old Deon (Ukea) Davis and 19-year-old Wilbur (Stephanie) Thomas were shot multiple times while seated in a vehicle at 50th and C Streets, SE. Ramsey said that detectives have made progress in these cases, but they remain unsolved. He said that because two victims were involved, a \$50,000 reward is being offered to anyone who provides information that leads to an arrest and conviction in these cases. The Chief added that while there is no indication at this time that the double-homicide involved hate crimes, detectives are continuing to investigate all possibilities. The "day of remembrance" included entertainment, food and free school supplies for children.

NEWS & NOTES

Viewing of Recovered Stolen Property. Third District detectives will hold a viewing of suspected stolen items from a series of recent burglaries in various neighborhoods, on Saturday, August 16, from 9 am to 5 pm, in the 3D Community Room, 1624 V Street, NW. If you were a burglary victim and think your property may have been recovered, contact Detective David Swinson at (202) 673-6914 or via email to dswinson@mpdc.org

Anti-Auto Theft Device Give-Away. The Sixth District and American Skyline Insurance Company will give away free anti-vehicle theft devices on Saturday, August 30, at the Boys & Girls Clubhouse, 4103 Benning Road, NE. Details at <http://www.mpdc.org/blue/news.asp?sid=2260>

Chatting with the Chief. Chief Ramsey discusses public safety issues and takes phone calls during his monthly appearance on WHUR 96.3-FM, on Thursday, August 21, from 6:40-7 pm (note the date change from the usual third Tuesday of the month).

Drug Free Zone. A drug free zone is in effect this weekend in PSA 406, with another drug free zone planned for PSA 502 the following weekend. Details on the Anti-Loitering/Drug Free Zone law are at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/drugfreezone.shtm>.

① For background on the current Public Safety Communications Center, click on:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/phone/pssc.shtm>

① For more information on the investigation and reward, read the news release at:
<http://www.mpdc.org/blue/news.asp?sid=1670>

① The MPDC's Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit continues to work at preventing crime and improving police-community relations within DC's gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning communities. Learn more about GLLU at:
<http://www.gaydc.net/gllu>

DATA BOX

Homicides (as of 8/15/03)

- 2003: 163
- 2002: 153
- % Change: +6.5%

Arrests (week ending 8/9/03)

- Total: 851
- Drugs: 125
- Motor Vehicle Theft: 22
- Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 36

Firearm Recoveries (as of 8/12/03)

- Total: 1,202
- August: 61

Traffic Fatalities (as of 8/15/03)

- 2003: 41
- 2002: 36
- % Change: +13.9%